SUBJECT No. 40.

Abolition of the Supari Cess.

Messrs. Hosakoppa Krishna Rao, Koppa Taluk, and H. S. Ganesha Rao, Malnad Landholders' Association, Hosakoppa.

*Mr. Hosakoppa Krishna Rao.*—We have been asking for the abolition of this cess in the malnad area. It is still being levied and there is no justification for it. Nearly 2 lakhs of rupees have been invested in the supari cess fund and the annual realisations from the cess amount to Rs. 27,000, while Rs. 35,000 are spent for *koleroga* investigation.

*Mr. C. Srinivasa Rao.*—The expenditure on *koleroga* investigation was once estimated at Rs. 10,000. It is not clear why Rs. 35,000 should be spent. If the savings had been invested, there would have been a large amount available by this time and the interest thereon could very well have been utilised for this purpose and the levy of the cess discontinued.

*Second Member of Council.*—The cost of chemicals has considerably increased and nearly 1,000 applications for investigation have been received. We require twice the original establishment now. A sum of Rs. 35,000 was spent on account of establishment charges towards *koleroga*. There are 4 parties who are working at this.

*Dewan.*—The objects for which this cess is utilised are (1) labour supply to the malnad, (2) malnad arecanut improvement and the farm, (3) investigation and experiments on the general cultivation, (4) establishment of an experimental farm for the cultivation of supari and (5) finding suitable market for supari. If people pay a fee for spraying, the cess may be abolished.

*Mr. Vasudeva Rao.*—The spraying is done specially for *koleroga*. This is as old as the scientific investigation. When Government has got a separate department for investigation and carrying on experiments, there is no reason why people should pay. Every man can easily have one sprayer which costs Rs. 40 or 50. Every gardener should have a sprayer as a precautionary measure for the protection of the arecanut. No expenditure need therefore be incurred separately on this account.

One member said that the cess should not be levied in maidan.

*Dewan.*—This subject is coming up for discussion at every session. I shall consult Dr. Coleman whether the two lakhs of rupees cannot be invested and the interest so got utilised for special investigation. I am in sympathy with your complaint and the matter will be considered.

SUBJECT No. 41.

Abolition of the irrigation cess.

Messrs. (*a*) Nadig Lakshmana Rao, Nadig Bhaskara Rao, B Shivaji Wodiyar, Sorab Taluk; Kali Gundappa, Anche Thimmappa, and Venkatagiriappa, Sagar Taluk;

(*b*) Y. Rama Rao, and B. Gopalachar, Tirthahalli Taluk;

*Summary of Discussion.*—(*a*) Levy of the irrigation cess on lands which have no source of irrigation should be abolished. Moreover as this cess is already included in the assessment levied on wet and garden lands, no separate cess should be levied.

(*b*) Irrigation cess is levied in *malnad* where not even one-sixteenth portion of the total area of wet lands is fed by tanks or channels. The cess should be levied only on such lands as are irrigated by tanks. No contribution should be recovered from the raiyats for the restoration of such tanks.